

ALASKA DEPARTMENT OF FISH AND GAME

DIVISION OF COMMERCIAL FISHERIES

NEWS RELEASE



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KOTZEBUE COMMERCIAL SALMON FISHING OPENING

Commercial salmon fishing will be open for 3 hours from 6 p.m. until 9 p.m. Tuesday, August 20 in the Kotzebue District.

Catch during Monday night's 2-hour opening was 4,229 chum salmon by 35 permit holders. The catch is above average for this time period. The commercial harvest to date is over 280,000 chum salmon and is a new record catch for the 2000s.

Our next target is to exceed the 1995 commercial harvest of nearly 291,000 chum salmon. If Kotzebue fishermen and Great Pacific Seafoods are able to beat the 1995 harvest, the 2013 harvest will be in the Top 10 of greatest salmon harvests in the 52-year history of the commercial fishery.

Kobuk River test fish catch index has a set a record with the best year's catch index in the 21-year project history.

Continuing with short duration commercial fishing periods should not jeopardize subsistence opportunity or escapement.

If you have any questions concerning the fishery you can call the Kotzebue office at 442-3420, or the Commercial Fisheries office in Nome at 1-800-560-2271 or the buyer at 442-4192.